

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 /130 W
-----033668 031105Z /15

R 021400Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USNMR SHAPE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8782

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR
SUBJECT: CURRENT TURKISH POSITION ON AEGEAN QUESTION

1. IN NOVEMBER 30 MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, MFA SECTION CHIEF
FOR LOS/AEGEAN QUESTIONS RIZA TURMEN EXPRESSED HIGH REGARD
FOR NEW GREEK FONMIN PANAYIS PAPALIGOURAS AND SAID HE WAS
PLEASED WITH HIS SELECTION. TURMEN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT
ALTHOUGH THE TURKS WANT EARLY RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH
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GREEKS OVER THE AEGEAN QUESTION, THEY WERE NOT HOPEFUL
THAT THE GREEKS SHARED THIS SAME DESIRE. HE SAID HE
IS AFRAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL POINT TO THE RESULTS
OF THE NOVEMBER 20 ELECTIONS, AND TO THE PREDICTABLE
CRITICISM WHICH THE NEWLY STRENGTHENED OPPOSITION CAN BE
EXPECTED TO MAKE REGARDING ANY NEGOTIATIONS, AS PRETEXTS
FOR CLAIMING THAT IT IS UNABLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS

ON THE AEGEAN OR CYPRUS.

2. ACCORDING TO TURMEN, THE TURKS ARE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR EITHER A PARTITION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF OR FOR JOINT EXPLOITATION; HOWEVER, GIVEN THE EXPRESSED GREEK FEAR THAT ENCLAVING OF GREEK ISLANDS WITHIN THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF WOULD LEAD TO EVENTUAL LOSS OF GREEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEM, THE TURKS ASSUME THAT JOINT EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED IS THE MORE PROMISING SOLUTION. UNDER SUCH A SETTLEMENT, HE SAID, EACH OF THE TWO NATIONS WOULD NATURALLY KEEP A COASTAL STRIP (OF NEGOTIABLE WIDTH) FOR ITS EXCLUSIVE EXPLOITATION.

3. WHEN ASKED WHY THE TURKS CONTINUED TO RESIST ALLOWING THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) TO ADJUDICATE THE DISPUTE, TURMEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH EQUITY AND LEGAL PRECEDENT FAVOR THE TURKISH SIDE, A SETTLEMENT OF THE AEGEAN QUESTION IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE -- IT WOULD BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT SINCE THE LAUSANNE TREATY IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECT ON THE BALANCE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE--THAT IT WAS UNTHINKABLE TO LET IT BE DETERMINED BY ANY OUTSIDE AGENCY.

4. IN DECEMBER 1 CONVERSATION WITH DCM, MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT THE GREEK AND TURKISH FONMINS WILL MEET AT BRUSSELS DURING THE NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERIAL THIS MONTH; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER OR NOT THE AEGEAN WILL BE DISCUSSED. (AN ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 2 PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN QUOTED SOURCES IN ATHENS AS SAYING THAT CAGLAYANGIL AND PAPALIGOURAS WILL MEET IN BRUSSELS AT THE END OF THE NATO MEETING, BUT IT MENTIONED ONLY CYPRUS AS A TOPIC.) WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE REPORT THAT GREEK PRIMIN CARAMANLIS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ALLOWING TURKEY 25 PERCENT OF THE AEGEAN SEABED, SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT THE CONCEPT OF A 50-50 SPLIT HAD BEEN WRONGLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE TURKS AND THAT IT WAS A MISTAKEN INTERPRETATION OF THEIR INSISTENCE ON EQUAL RIGHTS.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, OCEANS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA08782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770449-0231
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712102/aaaadise.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: d1e2cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 108440
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT TURKISH POSITION ON AEGEAN QUESTION
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR, ZM
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1e2cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009